



Flourish... Confidently, Today!

“In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.”

The Apostle Paul | Romans 12:6-8 (NLT)

“I agreed to oversee the business vision and build an organization, but it wasn’t my vision... and I’m not a leader! It stressed me out so much I did nothing. I was miserable, embarrassed, and full of shame... for two years!” a friend shouted nearly in tears.

She'd failed. Of course! She paid a hefty price for attempting a role she wasn't designed for.

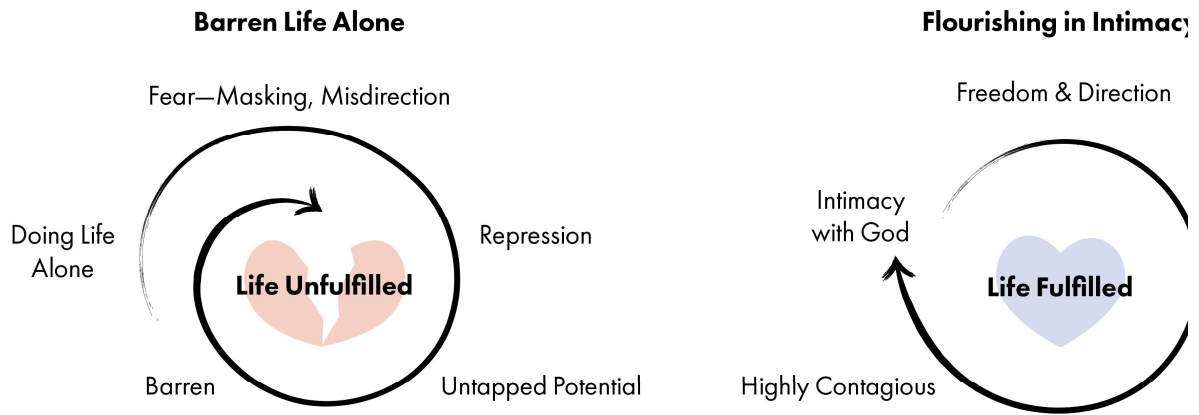
A common story? Perhaps, but more common are of those in roles they weren't designed for who, on the surface seem to be succeeding, but in actuality are living in mediocrity, stressed, and certainly not flourishing. Could you be one?

Oh, it's easy to become trapped, imprisoned in roles we weren't designed for. We're prone to fall into them... Expectations (instilled by others and ourselves) to "be successful" drive us in, or after a history of "decisions of convenience" we find ourselves stuck, or fear, financial predicaments and life circumstances corrupt our decisions... the reasons are many.

What's it costing you?

*Reflect: **Am I flourishing?***

Job satisfaction statistics tell the story... few are flourishing. Rationalization runs rampant, financial motivations leading the way. Of course, we all have financial needs... but perhaps our fears wield too much control. Must it be this way?



Fear (of failure, not having enough, not living up to expectations, wanting to look good in the eyes of others, etc.) leads to masking and misdirection... “posing” ... pretending to be someone we’re not. Posing originates from lack of trust in God; his promises and who he made you to be. The antidote? Intimacy with God. His truth cuts through the mire to provide clarity... liberating!

Have you sequestered yourself with God and asked, “Who am I Lord?”

I recommend that you to seek to know your “Character Identity.”

Character Identity: Two character roles that, when combined, capture the unique role you are to play in God’s redemption story; the distinguishing peak of the mountain called your identity. Consider the base everything followers have in common - the embodiment of the fruits of the Spirit; your “family identity.” Your Character Identity sets you apart from your siblings, each of us representing a different facet of Christ’s body. Contrast these Character Identities: “Artist – Teacher” vs. “Artist – Promoter.” Both artists, creative, but imagine the differing roles these people might play. Your Character Identity is simple, concise, clear, unforgettable. Not paragraph upon paragraph of qualities that self-assessment tools provide. You are to consistently bring your Character Identity into every role you play in life: job, parent, or other.

Listen, dig, explore, wrestle with God... search until you hear his crystal-clear answer. Then, comes his challenge of faith, "Will you trust my answer so much that you will confidently live it out?"

*Consider: **Start standing up for my Character Identity today!***

A group of 30 coaches gathered for training (always interesting!) The leader asked us to form pairs and take turns telling the other about what we are exceptionally good at. Afterward, he asked the entire group two questions: "What were you feeling as you told the other person about what you are exceptionally good at?" and, "What were you feeling as you listened to the other person tell you about how good they were?"

"Embarrassed, boastful, awkward, uneasy, fearful..." were some of the feelings felt while telling the other about what we were exceptionally good at. The feelings felt when listening? "Excited, encouraged, emboldened, happy for the speaker." The opposite of what the teller expected! We're our own worst enemies, right?

"Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us." The Apostle Paul (Romans 12:3)

Paul says be honest. Don't think yourself as better than you really are... but certainly don't portray yourself less than who God made you to be... be confident!

Imagine: I'm confidently moving into my Character Identity.

Are you feeling trapped in a role not fitting the role God made you for? Sometimes a dramatic change is required, but in most cases, moving from where you are is as simple as standing up to be who God made you to be. Move into your clarity - know what you were made to do and perhaps more importantly, what not to do. Do you need to say "No!" to something? Confidently let those around you know what you are "exceptionally good at." Who's to say what God may do!

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Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- Make a sober assessment, am I flourishing?
- In a few concise words, who does God say I am? (Be specific to your uniqueness as compared to others in the body.)
Want to uncover your Character Identity? Respond "I want to uncover my Character Identity" to this email and we'll send you the steps to take to get this clarity.
- Begin telling others what I am exceptionally good at. Who will I tell first?

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Confidently be me!

"And yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand."

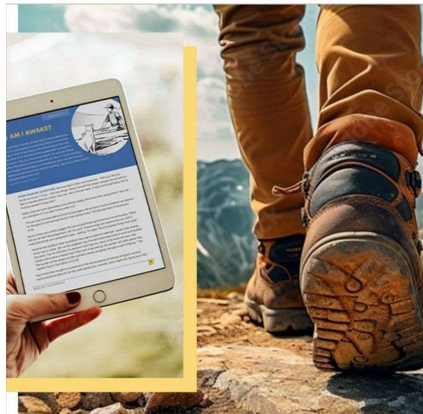
The Prophet Isaiah | Isaiah 64:8 (NLT)



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